

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph that begins on line 5 of page 1 and ends on line 9 of page 1 with the following paragraph:

This application is based upon and claims the benefit of priority from the prior Japanese Patent Application No. 11-238775 (publication number 2001-067309), filed August 25, 1999, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.